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Slight increase in unemployed after July's record low

The Louisiana Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), continues to closely monitor the economic impact of the recent hurricanes on the business and household surveys in the affected parishes. In producing the post-hurricane estimates, BLS announced that a number of modifications were made to standard estimating procedures to better reflect the employment part of the civilian labor force estimates. For a detailed explanation of the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on all of the BLS program's methodology, please go to <http://stats.bls.gov/katrina/cpscesquestions.htm>.

BATON ROUGE –Louisiana experienced an increase in the August unemployment rate to 3.4 percent from the 2.9 record low set in July. The state's unemployment rate was still well below the national unemployment rate of 4.7 percent in August.

“Louisiana has steadily added nonfarm payroll jobs since November 2005 with the only exception being the month of April 2006,” said Secretary of Labor John Warner Smith. “The preliminary August nonfarm estimate of 1,784,900 reflected an increase of 66,000 workers since October of last year. With this job growth and less than four percent of the available labor force looking for work, the state is clearly on the road to recovery.”

The state's civilian labor force for August 2006 decreased to 1,847,185, from 1,851,376 in July. The number of employed in August decreased to 1,783,708, from 1,798,518 in July. Louisiana's unemployed for August increased to 63,477, from 52,858 in July. Labor force data for parishes within the New Orleans MSA are now available and can be found historically on the LDOL Web site at www.LAWORKS.net, scroll over the tab at the top of the page for Labor Market Information, click on LOIS/Scorecard then on Labor Force at the bottom of the page. Caution should be used when making comparisons with 2005 data for areas affected by Hurricane Katrina since controlling data used in the estimation process cannot fully reflect the known shifts in the population.

Unadjusted unemployment rates compare parishes and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to the state. The August 2006 unadjusted unemployment rate for Louisiana was 3.8 percent, up from the July rate of 3.5 percent. The unemployment rates for the MSAs were: Alexandria, 3.5 percent, up from 3.2 percent in July; Baton Rouge, 3.5 up from 3.3; Houma, 2.7, up from 2.5; Lafayette, 2.6, up from 2.5; Lake Charles, 3.3, up from 3.0; Monroe, 3.6, up from 3.2; New Orleans, 4.5, up from 4.2; and Shreveport-Bossier City, 3.6, up from 3.5 percent last month. Lafayette Parish had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5 percent in August, while East Carroll Parish had the highest rate at 8.1 percent.

Preliminary seasonally adjusted statewide total nonfarm employment for August 2006 was 1,784,900 compared to 1,780,500 for the revised July 2006 figure, for an increase of 4,400 workers. The sector breakdown was as follows: natural resources and mining, 48,300 employed in August, up from 48,100 employed in July; construction, 111,300, up from 109,200; manufacturing, 145,500, up from 143,900; trade, transportation, and utilities, 366,200, up from 365,700; information, 28,400, unchanged; financial activities, 94,900, down from 95,200; professional and business services, 174,200, up from 174,000; educational and health services, 213,400, down from 215,100; leisure and hospitality, 173,700, up from 173,200; other services, 58,600, up from 58,400; and government, 370,400, up from 369,300.

For more detailed information on the August 2006 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.LAWORKS.net, scroll over the tab at the top of the page for Labor Market Information, click on Publications & Reports, and select LMI Bulletin.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	August 2006			July 2006			August 2005		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	145,379,000	7,086,000	4.6	145,606,000	7,602,000	5.0	143,142,000	7,327,000	4.9
LOUISIANA	1,790,329	69,892	3.8	1,827,222	66,897	3.5	2,010,170	123,996	5.8
ALEXANDRIA MSA	64,139	2,313	3.5	65,960	2,147	3.2	64,369	4,141	6.0
Grant	7,978	324	3.9	8,205	288	3.4	8,007	575	6.7
Rapides	56,161	1,989	3.4	57,755	1,859	3.1	56,362	3,566	6.0
BATON ROUGE MSA	338,641	12,327	3.5	345,088	11,646	3.3	341,919	21,076	5.8
Ascension	41,709	1,355	3.1	42,503	1,303	3.0	42,113	2,333	5.2
East Baton Rouge	200,917	7,171	3.4	204,742	6,737	3.2	202,862	12,056	5.6
East Feliciana	7,776	334	4.1	7,924	278	3.4	7,852	553	6.6
Iberville	11,641	621	5.1	11,863	613	4.9	11,754	1,143	8.9
Livingston	49,082	1,633	3.2	50,016	1,543	3.0	49,557	2,784	5.3
Pointe Coupee	9,203	392	4.1	9,379	414	4.2	9,292	762	7.6
St. Helena	3,816	272	6.7	3,888	250	6.0	3,853	442	10.3
West Baton Rouge	9,941	351	3.4	10,130	331	3.2	10,037	633	5.9
West Feliciana	4,556	198	4.2	4,643	177	3.7	4,600	371	7.5
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE-THIBODAUX MSA	89,917	2,481	2.7	92,070	2,363	2.5	93,691	4,516	4.6
Lafourche	42,666	1,170	2.7	43,687	1,136	2.5	44,456	2,091	4.5
Terrebonne	47,251	1,311	2.7	48,383	1,227	2.5	49,235	2,425	4.7
LAFAYETTE MSA	121,067	3,290	2.6	123,444	3,114	2.5	122,629	5,732	4.5
Lafayette	99,395	2,589	2.5	101,346	2,411	2.3	100,677	4,552	4.3
St. Martin	21,672	701	3.1	22,098	703	3.1	21,952	1,180	5.1
LAKE CHARLES MSA	86,955	2,991	3.3	89,854	2,756	3.0	91,641	5,394	5.6
Calcasieu	82,761	2,874	3.4	85,521	2,649	3.0	87,221	5,185	5.6
Cameron	4,194	117	2.7	4,333	107	2.4	4,420	209	4.5
MONROE MSA	76,712	2,861	3.6	78,584	2,607	3.2	78,766	5,115	6.1
Ouachita	67,053	2,479	3.6	68,689	2,284	3.2	68,848	4,464	6.1
Union	9,659	382	3.8	9,895	323	3.2	9,918	651	6.2
NEW ORLEANS-METairie-Kenner MSA	412,551	19,351	4.5	421,948	18,573	4.2	599,290	35,222	5.6
Jefferson	152,201	7,273	4.6	155,668	7,012	4.3	221,094	12,040	5.2
New Orleans City/Orleans	131,538	6,214	4.5	134,534	5,835	4.2	191,078	13,398	6.6
Plaquemines	7,756	337	4.2	7,933	336	4.1	11,267	657	5.5
St. Bernard	20,552	699	3.3	21,020	644	3.0	29,855	1,890	6.0
St. Charles	16,191	839	4.9	16,560	814	4.7	23,520	1,311	5.3
St. John Baptist	13,607	1,050	7.2	13,917	1,104	7.3	19,766	1,441	6.8
St. Tammany	70,707	2,939	4.0	72,317	2,829	3.8	102,711	4,486	4.2
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	171,708	6,423	3.6	175,375	6,436	3.5	172,942	10,940	5.9
Bossier	48,785	1,485	3.0	49,827	1,464	2.9	49,136	2,563	5.0
Caddo	112,188	4,506	3.9	114,584	4,546	3.8	112,994	7,553	6.3
De Soto	10,735	432	3.9	10,965	426	3.7	10,812	823	7.1

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	August 2006			July 2006			August 2005		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	22,609	729	3.1	22,939	680	2.9	23,555	1,436	5.7
Allen	7,654	387	4.8	7,817	361	4.4	7,860	680	8.0
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	8,726	445	4.9	8,933	450	4.8	9,181	851	8.5
Avoyelles	14,547	637	4.2	14,702	620	4.0	14,866	1,168	7.3
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	12,893	512	3.8	12,888	521	3.9	13,392	898	6.3
Bienville	5,743	252	4.2	5,921	243	3.9	5,902	503	7.9
Caldwell	3,971	152	3.7	4,062	142	3.4	4,163	329	7.3
Catahoula	3,908	180	4.4	3,926	169	4.1	3,939	324	7.6
Claiborne	6,610	270	3.9	6,667	249	3.6	6,672	446	6.3
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,521	377	5.5	6,728	394	5.5	6,666	704	9.6
East Carroll	2,493	219	8.1	2,496	219	8.1	2,597	379	12.7
Evangeline	11,219	468	4.0	11,259	442	3.8	11,537	785	6.4
Franklin	6,946	409	5.6	7,071	384	5.2	7,237	675	8.5
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	30,650	1,026	3.2	30,761	992	3.1	31,466	1,871	5.6
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	5,880	233	3.8	6,024	195	3.1	6,084	387	6.0
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,181	397	2.9	13,497	380	2.7	13,772	713	4.9
La Salle	5,497	180	3.2	5,604	169	2.9	5,631	310	5.2
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	16,862	697	4.0	17,275	666	3.7	17,446	1,143	6.1
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,208	228	5.1	4,152	242	5.5	4,346	423	8.9
Morehouse ¹	10,276	663	6.1	10,568	614	5.5	10,708	1,128	9.5
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	16,150	668	4.0	16,117	627	3.7	16,769	1,178	6.6
Red River	3,019	164	5.2	3,066	155	4.8	3,097	324	9.5
Richland	7,812	354	4.3	7,995	329	4.0	8,029	658	7.6
Sabine	8,761	279	3.1	8,983	264	2.9	9,070	545	5.7
St. James	7,776	469	5.7	7,920	442	5.3	8,548	825	8.8
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,562	1,295	3.6	35,444	1,213	3.3	35,183	2,201	5.9
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	19,990	839	4.0	20,760	813	3.8	20,954	1,760	7.7
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	44,349	1,885	4.1	44,703	1,830	3.9	47,349	3,119	6.2
Tensas	1,977	128	6.1	1,994	123	5.8	2,060	211	9.3
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	21,615	715	3.2	21,951	680	3.0	22,391	1,213	5.1
Vernon (Fort Port South) ¹	19,440	716	3.6	19,696	857	4.2	20,070	1,252	5.9
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	14,143	700	4.7	14,268	665	4.5	15,347	1,199	7.2
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,795	693	3.6	18,913	663	3.4	18,846	1,311	6.5
West Carroll	3,939	255	6.1	3,849	248	6.1	4,110	512	11.1
Winn	5,915	234	3.8	5,954	215	3.5	6,082	399	6.2

¹In addition to the eight (8) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Louisiana, there are seventeen (17) Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCs): Jackson and Lincoln Parishes combine to constitute the Ruston MC area. Civilian Labor Force can be derived by adding employed and unemployed. For related information or data, please visit:

www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm.